



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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FIRE RESTRICTIONS SET FOR LINCOLN COUNTY - BLM

The fourth of July is just around the corner, and this year's warm temperatures, combined with fuels in southern New Mexico have increased the fire danger. As a result, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is enforcing fire restrictions, effective June 28, to help ensure safety, prevent wildfires and facilitate fire-suppression. This is almost a month later in the year than last year's restrictions.

These fire restrictions cover the 24,630 acres of the Fort Stanton Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), as well as the rest of Lincoln County, and bring consistency to BLM-managed public lands and the adjacent Lincoln National Forest.

The Fire Prevention Order was signed today by Field Manager Eddie Bateson. Beginning Tuesday, the following restrictions will be in place:

- **Building or using a fire**, campfire, charcoal boiler or wood stove without a permit is prohibited, except in developed camping and picnicking areas. (Use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices is still allowed.)
- **Smoking** is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, in a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
- **Using a chainsaw** is prohibited without a permit.
- **Igniting any fireworks** is prohibited, including those considered "safe and sane."

"These restrictions will help prevent wildfires over the Fourth of July weekend, and throughout the duration of the current high fire-danger conditions," said Field Office Manager Eddie Bateson. "We want people to have a safe and enjoyable holiday."

Violators may be fined up to \$1,000, and/or imprisoned not more than 12 months.

For more information contact the BLM at 505-627-0272, or check out these websites:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swainfo/firerestrictions/swa_restrictions_nm.htm -- New Mexico

http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/swainfo/firerestrictions/swa_restrictions_closures.htm -- New Mexico & Arizona

